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# 'Dangerous Tactics': Canada to Require Podcasters, News Sites to Register With Government

*Beginning Nov. 28, online services must provide the Canadian government with their legal name and contact information, along with "information related to their content and subscribership." The new order comes amid a governmental crackdown on free speech across North America and Europe, with the help of the World Economic Forum.*

**By Brenda Baletti, Ph.D.**

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The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) last week said it will require online streaming services that offer podcasts or other broadcasting content in Canada to register with the government by Nov. 28, Public News reported.

The law applies only to those services making $10 million or more in annual revenue in Canada and the information it is requiring for registration is minimal, the CRTC said. Services must provide the Canadian government with their legal name and contact information, along with "information related to their content and subscribership."

"You will be able to continue to listen to and watch the content of your choice, the CRTC states on its website. "Our goal is to better support Canadian and Indigenous content. We have always respected Canadians' right to freedom of expression."

But critics of the new rule, like University of Ottawa law professor Michael Geist, said:

> "From a speech perspective, the regulator is effectively saying that a podcaster or news outlet that generates a certain threshold of revenue must register with the government, a position that runs counter to freedom of expression rights without government interference."